10000 refugees enter in a day

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 29 About 10,000 Myanmar refugees crossed over Naaf river to Bangladesh side today (Saturday). This is the highest number of refugees coming on a single day, officials said, reports UNB.

Another camp was opened today at Dhon Palang to give shelter to the refugees streaming into Bangladesh. With this, the total number of refugee camps stood at seven in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts.

Inmates in the camps reported that they were living an inhuman life with inadequate food, malnutrition and sanitation problems.

Sources in the administration said company commanders of BDR and Burmese border guards "Lunthin" had a flag meeting today (Saturday) at Ghom Dhum on the Burmese side. The outcome of the meeting was not immediately known.

Today's flag meeting was the fifth since the Burmese troops attacked a BDR outpost December 21 killing one jawan and looting arms.

BSS adds: Myanmar military junta is busy in implementing an Israeli-type policy for settling Mogh population by uprooting Rohingya Muslims. According to Rohingya refugees crossing into Bang-

ladesh, thousands of Mogh families have occupied land and property of Rohingya Muslims in Buchidang, Mongdu, and other areas of Arakan province. The Mogh are being settled in large numbers in Muslim areas, they claimed.

Sahid Karim (45) of Mangdu, Sayed Karim (55) of Buchidong and Abdul Hashim (50) of Buchidong told BSS at Marisha Palang Refugee Camp. 'our houses and properties including bullocks and ploughs were snatched away by police and army and those were given to the Mogh settlers. Abul liashim, who came to Bangladesh living behind his everything, said Rohingya Muslims will not be allowed to go back to their ancestral home in Arakan as Mogh population is given permanent settlement by uprooting Ro-

Hashim had the bad luck to be forcefully evicted from hisancestral home once in 1978 and again in early 1992. I have left everything - land, bullocks, plough, my house,' he said. He said the Mogh are permanently settled in the arcas vacated by Rohingva Muslims.

Police and troops who are evicting them said: "You Rohingyas do not belong to

Heroin case: Blankson on remand

hingyas.

Eliadah discloses names of several local agents

By Staff Correspondent

The teenaged American gir in her statement to a magistrate in the Dhaka Saturday disclosed several names of local and foreign agents involved in drug-trafficking, a police officer said.

But the police officer declined to disclose the names for reasons related to investi-

Meanwhile, the American girl, Eliadah McCord, was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yes terday after the end of her two-day police remand. The other accused South African national, Robert Blankson was taken on a three-day police remand Saturday.

Eliadah and Blankson were arrested in connection with drug-trafficking on Tuesday and Thursday.

the bail of Eliadah, when she was produced before the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) yesterday, but the CMM, Alhaj Aztzul Haq Bhuiyan, rejected the bail "Eliadah was carrying the

The solicitors moved for

heroin packets willingly - she is under-aged but not minor and so she does not deserve any sympathy," the CMM said.

But the CMM, however, granted a first class jail custody for the accused. The petitions were moved by Kazi Abdul Wahab advocate and two other solicitors.

Before producing in the court for bail, Eliadah gave her statement to M Muzibur Rahman Mia, a magistrate.

Storm over flood

From Page 1 Col 4 did not get the consultancies

are criticising the plan. The progress report prepared by the Flood Plan Co-

ordination Organisation (FPCO) says of the 28 studies, 26 have been commissioned. But till December last year two studies had been completed. Two studies on disaster preparedness and fisheries have not been commissioned yet.

To improve the quality of study reports a reviewing procedure was introduced in May 1991. The review committee held six meetings between May and November 1991 and reviewed the inception reports, interim reports etc of different studies done by the FAP consultants.

Authoritative sources say the review has been done by a panel of seven experts from home and abroad who are in someway connected with these studies either as consultants or experts. As a result the review failed to identify the loopholes of the reports, they added.

Academicians reviewing the FAP studies argue that the plan has ignored the application of traditional knowledge in fighting floods and the question of social acceptability. Commenting on the social acceptability Asafuddowla said 'the issue will

be decided by the politicians. Cabinet sources say during two presentations on the FAP during the past two months Cabinet members raised questions about the social accept ability of the plan. They also raised queries about land acquisition to be made for proposed mud embankments.

People are seared about the way their lands are taken away

by different government agen cies in the name of implementing development projects', sources quoting Cabinet members say.

FPCO sources say one of the 'eleven guiding principles' for preparing the plan encourage popular support by involving beneficiaries in the planning, design and operation of flood control and drainage works has been ignored.

Asafuddowla, while commenting on the criticisms said in a country with the most complex hydrological features on carth any plan to control flood will invite criticisms. All concerned have been invited to the review meeting and are free to discuss it, he added. He, however, did not rule out the possibility of heated debate duting the four days of the

The briefing document jointly prepared by the government and the World Bank for today's meeting says The FAP was established by the Government and friendly countries to find ways to mitigate natural disasters. Unfortunately, there are no easy or early solutions. A short-term crash programme of large scale engineering interventions is not a scassble proposition. On the other hand, doing nothing and living with floods is not an accept able policy, nor is a reliance solely on non-structural measures. What is needed is a deliberate, staged approach em ploying a range of interventions each carefully designed

to suit local conditions." Experts say, with the present state of FAP such wished always remain illusive.

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BNP behind the attack: Mizan

By Staff Correspondent

Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party (JP) Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has accused that the ruling party workers attacked and foiled the 'JP grand rally yesterday organised in demand for Ershad's release.

The government is totally responsible for today's incident at the meeting venue of Sayadabad," Mizan Chowdhury told a hurrically-called press conference at his Gulshan residence last evening.

"The BNP workers showered indiscriminate bullets on the dais under the cover of law enforcing agency members while the police lobbed tear gas shell on us," he alleged.

He also alleged that there was a deep-rooted conspiracy against democracy and urged all the opposition parties to resist it.

*From now on this government can never claim itself as a democratic government, the JP acting chief said adding that "this government proved today that the voting verdict does not always constitute a democratic government."

He said, "We suspected a conspiracy against our rally earlier when the government refused to give permission to the holding of the meeting at our chosen venue", Manik Mia

The JP Acting President alleged that their workers, on their way to the meeting from different districts, were attacked in every entry point of the capital.

"Some of the BNP workers were identified as wearing police dress and carrying weapons," he also alleged

He claimed that the 'unruly BNP workers' damaged at least 30 vehicles carrying JP workers in different points of the capital. The ruling party workers attacked and injured JP supporters without sparing even the female workers, he He also claimed that 30 of

their workers were missing. Initially at the press conference he said that three JP workers were killed by opponents' bullets and 150 others injured. But afterwards he in formed the newsmen that the number of injured was 1,000.

The JP leader said that the government was not their enemy. They expected democratic manner from this gov-

"But the government breached the promises given to the people during February 91 elections by today's terrorism," he alleged.

Acting leader of JP Parliamentary Party Maudud Ahmed, Secretary General Shah Moazzem Hossain, Dhaka City Unit President Col (retd) M A Malck, JP leaders Anisul Islam Mahmud and Ruhul Amin Howlader were present among others at the press conference.

Shah Moazzem Hossain said, "We suspected on Thursday that something is going to happen against our rally when some BNP leaders vowed to foil the grand rally at the presence of the Prime Minister at a meeting near Gulistan.

The JP Secretary General claimed that atleast 20 lakh people could have attended their rally if they were allowed to hold the rally peacefully.

lie presented a 10-point charter of demands titled 'Dhaka Declaration' which include immediate release of JP chairman and former president Hussain Mohammad Ershad, annulment of all the black laws including Special Powers Act, fresh election to parliament, freedom of judiclary and violence-free educational institutions.

To press these demands he announced a four-month agitation programme beginning today (Sunday) with 'people's mobilisation at district and upazila levels.

The programmes also include exchange of views with leaders of other political parties and with the representatives of foreign missions in

On June 30, JP would hold another rally in Dhaka and 'millions of JP workers' would march towards the Central Jail and stage court-arrest. In reply to another question

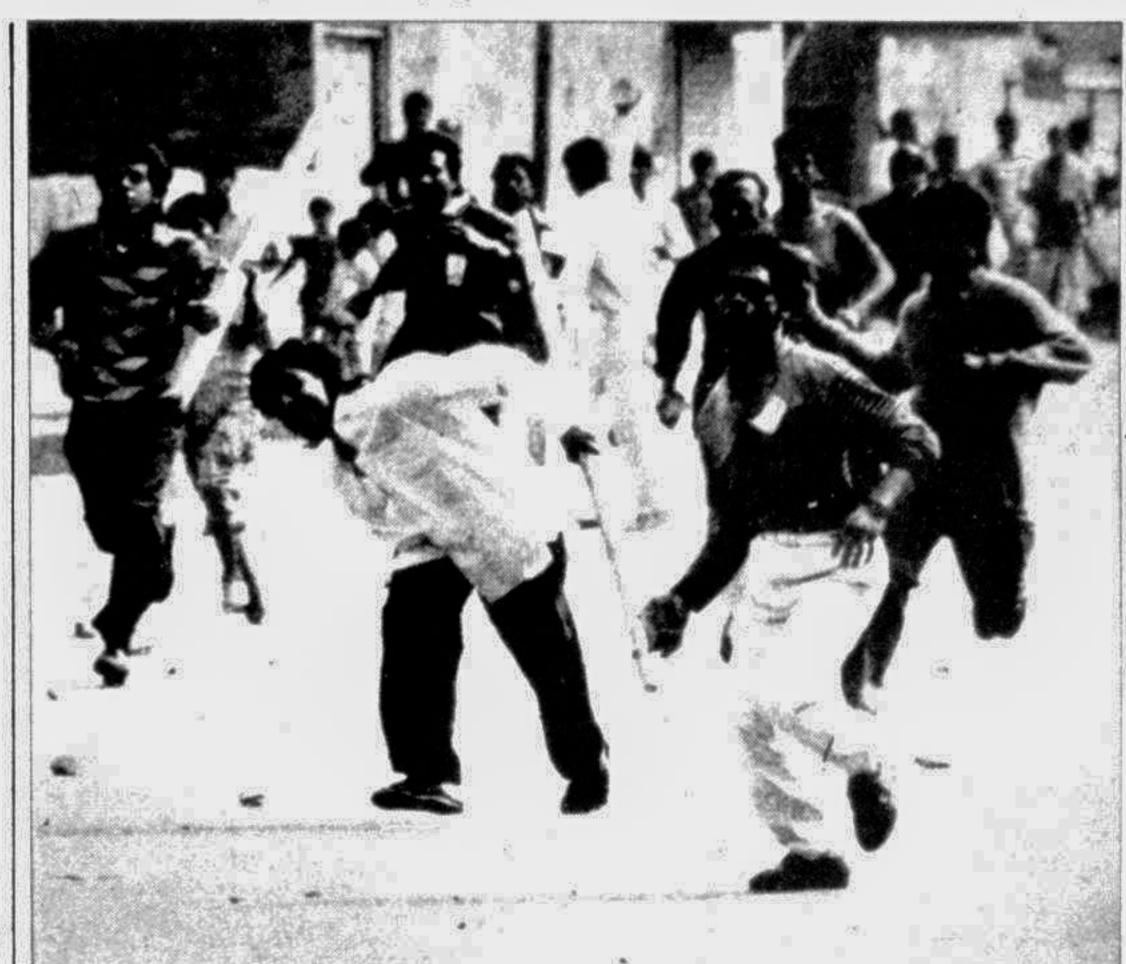
Mizan Chowdhury said that the BNP government considered JP as its main rival and as they are losing popularity, they attacked and spotled the rally.

50 hurt in Comilla bus accident

COMILLA, Feb 29 : At least 50 passengers were injured, 11 seriously, when a bus of Winner Transport company collided head on at Harikhola near Chandina on Dhaka-Chittagong Trunk road, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the incident occurred on February 24 when another vehicle from opposite direction hit the speeding bus.

The seriously injured were admitted to the Chandina Health Complex.



JP workers throwing brickbats at police at meeting venue yesterday.

-Star photo

Historic March

From Page 1 Col 8 dream of the Bengalee people to become masters of their own destiny was on the verge of being turned into a reality.

Bengalee nationalism, which articulated the hopes and aspirations of the people, and which was given shape and substance, and turned into a political movement, stood at the gate of an extraordinary

Yahya's decision to postpone the inauguration of the PNA, on the feeble excuse that Zulsikar Ali Bhutto whose Pakistan People's Party had 88 seats, was raising objections to the idea of a hand-over of power to the Awami League, was an attempt to pre-empt the triumph of Bengalce na-

The fireball ignited by Yahya's piece of treachery turned into endless processions and demonstrations on the streets of Dhaka.

On March 1, all roads led to the Purbant Hotel where Bangabandhu was presiding over a meeting of the Awami League parlfamentary party.

"As representatives of the people, we have a responsibility. We cannot allow this to go unchallenged," Mujib told an impromptu press conference at the hotel, as tens of thousands of angry people converged on the Motifheel area.

The leader called hartals for March 2 and 3 and announced he would address a public meeting at the Race Course Ground on March 7, where he would announce a full programme for the coming

If the conspirators think they can suppress the people. then they are living in a fool's paradise," Mujib told the reporters, while announcing his action programme for the next

According to the Pakistan Observer of March 2, Multb told a guestioner that he would discuss the situation with leaders of other parties such

as Maulana Bhasani, Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, Ataur Rahman, Nurul Amin etc. "as soon as possible." He said that Bengalces should now be united to achieve their demands, and they must be ready

for sacrifice. Outside, people were pouring into the streets in their thousands all over the city. Shops, banks, business houses, offices, even government of fices closed down spontaneously in protest against Yahya's announcement.

Students of Dhaka University and virtually all other educational institutions of the city marched towards Purbani to hear Mujib.

Thousands joined them en route from the Stadium where a match between a Pakistan XI and an International XI was abandoned as the crowd, angered by Yahya's decision. started pelting stones at the Pakistani players, except Ragibul Hassan who was the only Bengalee player in the team and wore a 'Jot Bangla' sticker on his bat.

In the afternoon, a huge gathering took place at the Paltan Maidan where speakers from the Awami League, Sramtk League and Chhatra League called on the people to remain united and observe hartals the following two days. Matiya Chowdhury of the

National Awami Party gave a fiery speech at Gulistan.

There were processions evcrywhere, thousands of people carrying iron rods, sticks and bamboo staves.

The militant mood of the people was everywhere to see. Meanwhile, the night air of Dhaka on March 1, 1971, was rent with cries of 'Joi Bangla ! as thousands marched into the small hours. The Pakistan flag and portraits of Muhammad Ali Jinnah were burned near the Purbani, at Gulistan and countless other places.

The march of history was entering the final stretch.

Rly fare

From Page 1 Col 8

he said adding that the cn

change their views.

hancement was made to

government had in the mean-

time taken up initiative to re-

altse funds for the sector from

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

and other international finan-

cial institutions and donors.

Regarding other causes for the

loss, the official, who prefers

anonymity, mentioned corrup-

tion at all the administrative

tiers of the sector, pay hike,

lack of maintenance and tick

fixed fare, the price of the

tickets of Dhaka-Dinajpur Inter

City trains [Tista and Ekata]

has increased to Taka 135

from Taka 128, price of the

tickets of Dhaka-Chittagong

Inter City train (Urmi

Godhulcc) - from Taka 97 to

104, Dhaka-Sylhet Inter City

(Jayantica) — from Taka 89 to

Taka 97, Dhaka-Sylhet Inter

City (Parabat and Upaban) -

from Taka 155 to Taka 163,

Dhaka-Noakhali Inter City train

(Upakul) - from Taka 74 to

Taka 81 and the price of the

tickets of Dhaka-Chittagong

Inter City train [Mahanagar

Purabee) has raised to Taka

Ex-food minister

sent to jail

Chowdhury, a Food Minister in

the cabinet of deposed Pre-

sident Ershad was sent to the

Central Jail Saturday after he

surrendered to the Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate court,

Major (Retd) lqbal liossain

195 from Taka 188

reports UNB.

According to the newly

etless travelling.

He also mentioned that the

OIC team arrives today to look into refugee problem

A two-member high-powered delegation of the Organisation of Islamic Conference arrives in city today (Sunday) to see the plight of Rohingya Muslim refugees, reports UNB.

Ambassador Nastr Abdallah Hamdun, Chairman of the Permanent Council of the Islamic Soliderity Fund, and Ambassador Abdallah Abdi Harsi will visit Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts where the Myanmar refugees have been

Milon murder No witnesses produced

By Staff Correspondent No witnesses in the trial of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon murder were produced before the court Saturday.

The witnesses scheduled to be produced before the court of the Second Additional Sessions Judge M Ismail Mia were Dr Abdullah Al Mamun, Abdur Rahim, M Yusuf and Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal.

Diplomatic ties with Azerbaijan

Bangladesh and Azerbaijan have signed a protocol establishing diplomatic and consular relations between the two countries, reports UNI3.

A half-day rickshaw strike was partially observed in the capital Saturday. The strike was called by

Rickshaw strike

observed

partially

By Staff Correspondent

different rickshawpullers' and rickshaw owners' associations in protest against a recent government announcement disallowing rickshaws from plying in 19 major city roads.

A few incidents of violence were reported from around the city as the number of rick shaws plying the streets remained thin during the early part of the morning. However, by mid-morning a greater number of rickshaws began to come out.

According to a Dhaka New City Rickshaw Owners Association statement, a procession brought out by the association was attacked near Mirpur.

The joint statement by MA Kashem and Md Ilassan, President and General Sceretary of the association respectively, said that a number of owners and rickshawpullers were also arrested by police from around the city. They resented the attacks and arrests and demanded immediate release of those held by police.

The Dhaka Rickshaw Owners and Rickshawpullers Confederation in a statement also condemned the arrests and demanded the immediate and unconditional release of those arrested on the day.

Gunshots rock DU campus

By DU Correspondent

Several shots were fired land crackers were blasted on the Dhaka University campus

A group of armed youth allegedly from the expelled activists of the Chhatra League (S-A), the student wing of the Awami League, entered the Arts Faculty compound through the gate near the Central Library of the university and opened fired at about 1.45 pm, witnesses said.

At that time about 3 shots were fired infront of the lecture theatre of the university allegedly by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the BNP, activists.

The incident of the firing created panic among the students and they started running for cover.

Later the JCD brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally at the Auparajeo Bangla protesting the incident

The rally addressed by the JCD leaders Habib un Nabi Sohel, Ali Akkas Nadim and Rafigul Islam Jaglu accused the BCL (S-A) of firing and said that the BCL was trying to force closure of the university. The BCL (S-A) held JCD responsible for the incident.

Body to recommend bonus for nat'l bank officials

The government has formed a four-member committee with State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman as its President to recommend in centive bonus for 1990 for the officers and employees of the nationalised banks after exam ining the proposal submitted by the board of directors of the nationalised banks, reports

An Executive Director of Bangladesh Bank, nominated by its Governor and a Managing Director of a nationalised bank will be members of the committee and joint secretary of finance division (commercial bank) will act as member-secretary of the committee.

Thousands rounded up in Pretoria

PRETORIA, Feb 29: Security forces arrested 13,000 people on charges ranging from shoplifting to illegal possession of firearms in a two-day sweep that ended Saturday. It was the latest in a series of crackdowns by police aimed at combating a nationwide crime move, reports AP.

Food riots: Thousands missing in Albania

TIRANA, Fcb 29: Thousands of people were reported massing in Durres on Saturday in an apparent effort to commandeer ships and flee this impoverished country after the latest outbreak of food riots. Radio Tirana said one youth was killed and 20 people, including 16 police officers, were injured Friday as rioters looted an burned two food warehouses in Peoin. The government had said earlier that six people were injured, reports AP.

PM: Brain drain

From Page 1 Col 7 highest allocation had been carmarked for education in the current budget for attaining quick progress.

· Earlier, on arrival at the convocation venue, the BUET Chancellor was received by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Shahiahan, Deans and the senior teachers of the university.

The Prime Minister was led to the robing room from where she joined the convocation procession wearing the ceremonial navy blue convoca-

She was also presented with a convocation crest by the BUET VC.

The function was also addressed by the Chairman of the University Grants Commission Prof M Shamsul Iluq and VC Prof Shahjahan. Ministers, members of par-

liament, the Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University, Prof M Maniruzzaman Miah, diplomats and senior officials were present at the function. Recalling the glorious role of the students during the

anti-autocracy movement, she said that they were the driving forces behind the sucress. Terming education the yardstick of development, the Prime Minister called for clim-

inating the "session jam." "We have wasted a lot of time and the country has also been deprived of services of the talents," she said adding a call to create a congental academic atmosphere aimed at stopping the "brain drain."

Prof Shamsul Huq, speaking at the convocation, called for increased allocation for the Science and Technology Division of the Education Mi-Prof Shahjahan announced

that the university would soon open a petroleum and mineral resources engineering division. He also urged the government to save the country's

'costlicst resources', the edu-

cated youths, from the disgrace of unemployment.

Later, the Prime Minister went round a display of various academic equipment, organised in connection with the convocation. BUET authorities also organised various functions including cultural programmes to mark the occa

BSS adds: Speakers at an open forum entitled "Session Jam and its Prevention yesterday urged for building up national consciousness against session jam and violence on

the university campuses. It was arranged to mark the concluding day of the four-day long "BUET Festival '92" yes-

terday at the university.

Speakers underscored the need for collective efforts to identify the causes of session jam and violence on a priority basis. The reasons were political and it would have to be tackled politically, they added *Students played their due role during any crisis of the nation and this is the time to be united against session jam

and violence," they said. Terming violence the major cause for session jam, they said united initiatives were necessary so that the terrorists could not take shelter in any

political party. They said students' politics would not be free from crisis until the leadership belonged to the regular students. They urged for removing the nonstudents from leadership.

Prof M Shahjahan, Vicc-Chancellor of BUET, presided over the function organised by the Engineering University Central Students' Union (EUCSU). Awami League leaders Tofael Ahmed MP, Sudhangsu Shekhar Halder MP, Mujahidul Islam Sclim of Bangladesh Communist Party (CPB), Journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury and Prof Ainun Nishat of BUET took part in

the discussions.

Cabinet on KAFCO

From Page 1 Col 7 at the National Board of Revenue, represented the Bangladesh side.

When contacted a senior KAFCO official declined to comment on the outcome of the meeting. At Friday's meeting The foreign shareholders, it is

learnt, formally proposed to

raise the price of gas to one dollar per thousand cft from the existing \$ 0.75. In the 1990 contract, the price of gas was tied to price of fertilizer in the international market and it was projected as one of the key points of the project's viability. But this

point came under question as

the prices of urea and ammo-

nia had been dropping since early 1991. There is no 'schedule' of any meeting between the two parties 'in the near future', Nicholas Marco, the Commercial Manager of KAFCO, told

The Daily Star yesterday. The KAFCO deal, which was up in the air for nearly a decade since it was originally conceived in the early Eightics, sought to bring in private capital from abroad for production of urea and ammonta fertilizer for export.

Allegations have it that the deal finally took a form that transferred all risks of \$ 475 investment on million Bangladesh.

In 1990, during the Ershad regime when the contract was singed, the administration agreed to give concessions that went well beyond the original promoters agreement for the

The principal concessions, as the KAFCO watchers point out, were: 1) a guarantee to supply gas on a deferred payment basts for three and a half years at a price which was well below the going price of gas for other fertilizer plants, (2) agreement to issue government guarantee on a no-questions-asked-basis for the entire amount of \$230 million export credit to be incurred by the company (KAFCO) from abroad, (3) permission to open an offshore account for KAFCO which would be outside the reach of the Bangladesh Government

Other concessions, they say, include permission to cut hills in Chittagong for earth filling purpose, though Bangladesh's law prohibits cutting of hills and a waiver from this prohibition was denied to the public sector Chittagong Urca Fertilizer Company.

Concerned ministry sources say although some of the 'illogical aspects' of the deal were known to the officials, the package as a whole was critically studied only when the Finance Ministry was asked to sign the Letters of Guarantee for credit from the Japanese Export Import Bank.

The inequitable aspects were unearthed and the matter was referred to the Council of Ministers. And the Deal of the Year turned sour.

20 killed: Rockets hit Kabul's money market

KABUL, Feb 29: A rocket fired by anti-government

Afghan Guerillas hit Kabul's money market today, killing at least 20 people and wounding many others, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said, reports Reuter.

Khaleda: US

From Page 1 Col 5 his cooperation in giving democracy a permanent shape in the country, the sources

the second largest donor to Bangladesh after Japan, has been assisting the country in its economic and social infrastructure sectors. It is extending assistance to

The United States, being

Bangladesh particularly in the form of grants, project, commodity and food aid. The sources described the

present relations between Dhaka and Washington as more excellent than ever before.

The Midnight File